

Species Election

The Examiner further required Applicants to elect one species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is found allowable. The Examiner requests election of one microorganism as recited in claim 20, and either (a) a recombinant protein or enzyme or (b) a fine chemical recited in claims 25 and 26. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, the claims relates to preserving the enzyme activity of a nitrilase. The enzymatic activity is independent of its origin and can be preserved according to the claimed methods. It is urged that the application can be searched and examined without undue burden should all of the microorganisms of dependent claim 20 and both recombinant protein or enzyme and fine chemical of claims 25 and 26 be considered.

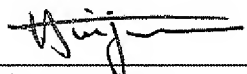
CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants reserve all rights to pursue the non-elected species in one or more divisional application.

Applicants are submitting their response within the one-month response period. No fee is believed due. However, if any fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 12810-00105-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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